



The Rewards of Stewardship

By Father John Warfel

The inscription read: *To Church of the Advent, San Francisco from St. Clement's Church, Philadelphia, 1906.* The silver lavabo bowl, the bowl used to wash the priest's hands during the Mass, was just one of the many treasures I polished when I worked on an altar guild as a young man. Every article in the sacristy had a story; the lavabo bowl was no exception. The 1906 San Francisco Earthquake had totally destroyed The Church of the Advent. On the other side of the country, St. Clement's Church sent a replacement bowl as a gesture of Anglo-Catholic solidarity.

Polishing that silver bowl made me feel like I belonged, that I was truly a part of the parish; after all, you never really feel at home until you've set the table. It also made me feel connected to something much greater than my beloved parish of the 1980's. Somehow I was connected to all the souls that had ever polished that bowl over the past eighty years or so. Somehow I was also connected to a group of faithful Christians, then long dead, who had lived in Philadelphia at the beginning of the last Century.

I loved working on the altar guild. I often say that it was while I polished, ironed and set up the sacred vessels, God planted a seed that one day led to Ordination. I playfully warn new members of our altar guild to be careful - you never know where this ministry might lead you.

Stewardship includes taking care of the many treasures we inherited from the faithful who came before us. Grace Church is blessed with so much - from our beautiful buildings right down to the small hand-embroidered linens



used at the altar. It is a joy to worship in this sacred space and to make good use of all the wonderful gifts people have given to the parish they loved so dearly.

We are now the stewards of all this; with stewardship comes responsibility. In Luke's gospel, Jesus tells us, "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded" (Luke 12:48). For us at Grace Church, this is a sobering injunction.

It's easy to become complacent, assuming that others will come forward. This is true for all organizations that rely on volunteers - churches, civic organizations, or groups that promote a shared interest. Some people are just more inclined to chip in and help. But when we help out at church, we aren't simply volunteering, we are actively participating in ministry.

"The duty of all Christians is to fol-

low Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God," (*Book of Common Prayer* p. 856). If you take your Baptismal Covenant at all seriously, you are actively engaged in ministry.

Ministry takes many forms. Ministry can be something as simple as picking up trash or changing a light bulb. The important thing is that you do something. The parish committee most in need of your time and labor is Buildings and Grounds. Speak to David Catizone, chair.

I can't say where your ministry may lead you but I can guarantee one thing. When it is done prayerfully and intentionally, even the most seemingly mundane task glorifies God.

What's more, active ministry is often a surprising channel for grace - I finally began to understand the Communion of Saints through small dabs of Hagerty's silver polish.

From the Senior Warden

September, 2010

It has been 3½ months since Father John and I returned from Israel. At some level it seems much longer ago than that, and yet, some of my memories are so vivid it seems like yesterday. I went on this pilgrimage hoping to have some of the same experiences that my husband, Ken, had when he went in 1996. When he returned from his trip, he told me that he truly felt that he had been touched by God.

I shared some of the experiences that Ken had; sitting in the garden at Gethsemane I understood what he meant when he talked about the garden being so close to the hills that it would have been simple for Jesus to just disappear into the hills that night rather than wait to be betrayed. I was awed in Bethlehem kneeling at the site of the Manger. I thought of Ken as we walked through the streets of the Old City of Jerusalem, stopping at each station of the cross early Saturday morning.

We were fortunate, however, to have several experiences that many other tours don't get. We stayed at the Guest House at St. George's Cathedral (Episcopal) in Jerusalem. Our guide, Eyad, was a Palestinian Christian. He shared some of his thoughts and life experiences with us. As you might guess, it's not easy being a Christian, particularly a Palestinian Christian in Israel. He took us on some special side trips. One, which will live with me forever, I think, was our visit to a Palestinian Refugee Camp in Bethlehem. Many of you may have read that there is a wall surrounding Bethlehem, erected to protect the Jewish population and others after many of the acts of terror-suicide bombings which have taken place. Access into and out of Bethlehem is strictly monitored. Jewish citizens are not allowed in. Palestinians have difficulty leaving.

Before visiting the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, we were given a tour of the refugee camp. The first thing that I learned is that many of the people living in this camp, and 12 or more others in Israel, have lived in the camps since 1948. As a result, there are the original refugees, displaced by the creation of the Jewish state, their children and their children's children. Additional refugees have come to the camps as a result of the settlements erected on formerly Palestinian land. Over time, the refugee camps have taken on some aura of permanence-wooden and stone buildings, rather than tents, a school, a mosque, work-training programs, to name a few. The revolving gate, which had been the only means into and out of the camp is no longer operational, so driving by, the camp just looks to be another neighborhood, although poorer and more run-down than its neighbors.

I think what moved me the most during our tour was listening to our guide, a well-spoken young Palestinian

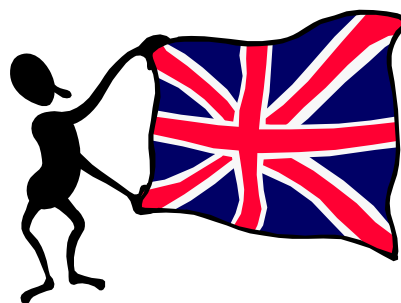
Christian who had studied in Paris, but returned to the camp to help his people. He spoke of having traveled to more than 20 countries-on a Palestinian passport traveling through Jordan-but having never been to Jerusalem-a mere 12 miles away. He had also never been to his family's home a bit north of Bethlehem outside of the West Bank.

There is no right or wrong answer to the situation in the Middle East. What is needed is a greater understanding of all sides. We were fortunate to hear a bit of a perspective that we, in the West, rarely hear. I know now when I hear about conflicts in Israel between the Jews and the Palestinians that I need to remember to that there are at least three groups involved-the Jews, the Muslims and the Christians.

Before I close, I also want to draw your attention to the work of the Diocese of Jerusalem, which includes Israel, Syria and Jordan. This diocese, which is not very large, finances a multitude of programs-health, social, educational and vocational services receive support from the Diocese. If you are interested in learning more about these programs, or some of our experiences, please ask either Father John or me. I don't want this trip to recede into the background of my memories.

- Claire

BRITISH CRAFT FAIRE AND FESTIVAL NEWS...



It's nearing the time for our annual British Crafter Faire and Festival! Join us for crafts, gift baskets, home baked goodies, breakfast sandwiches, fish and chips lunch or afternoon tea...and, of course, great fun! This year's Faire will be held on Saturday, November 20th from 9am to 4pm. Now is a great time to set aside items for the White Elephant Sale. Soon we will be able to store White Elephant donations here at the Church...listen for announcements in Church regarding this. Consider getting involved in making crafts, baked goods, donations to the raffle table or volunteering to work at the Faire. Most importantly, join the fun! Please see Meg Catizone if you have suggestions or would like to get involved.



PRAYER LIST

To have names added to or deleted from the prayer list, please leave a yellow prayer request slip in Kathryn Parker's mailbox-- upper right--or e-mail her at kparker7@hvc.rr.com.

Please pray for	Prayer Intention	Submitted by	Please pray for	Prayer Intention	Submitted by
Sarah Clark	healing	Peggy Fellows	The people of Tibet	courage, peace, freedom	Penny Ames
LynnMarie Monroe	happiness, guidance	Kathryn Parker	Barbara, Charlie, Andy Clark	health, prosperity, love	Penny Ames
Marie	comfort	Kathryn Parker	Richard	health, love, prosperity	Penny Ames
Lynn, Kenny, Lily, Madeline	healing, peace, guidance	Kathryn Parker	Kathryn Parker	healing, peace, happiness	Penny Ames
Kathryn & Shannon Lear	comfort, peace	Kathryn Parker	Ron Cosentino		Grace Church family
Graham Jamison	healing, comfort	Ellen Jamison	Julia Logiodice	acceptance at school	Mike Saunders
Jessi Jamison	healing, guidance	Ellen Jamison	Ilene Stepanick	comfort, happiness	Mike Saunders
Justin Guardino	healing, guidance, employment	Ellen Jamison	Meri	healing, comfort	Beth Maisonet
Lenora Vaughn	comfort	Ellen Jamison	Tara Catizone	healing	Eleanor & Meg Catizone
Isabelle Townsend	healing, comfort, release from pain	Ellen Jamison	Leah Veloudas	healing, comfort	Eileen Bloomer
Alex Jamison	healing, comfort, guidance	Ellen Jamison	Katie White	healing, comfort	Anne Caldwell
Linda Totaan	healing	Christine Ford-Huebsch	Carol McGinis	strength, healing, peace	Sue Scott
Stephanie	healing, safety	Christine and Les	Carmen Musolino		Jan & Frank Musolino
James Mariano	safe return from Iraq	The Ford-Huebsch Family	Owen and Family		& Frank Musolino
Megan, Penilynn, Brandon	well-being	Their Church School Family	Ewing Orlando	healing, comfort	Andrew & Lorraine Higgins
Carlee	healing, well-being	Her Church School Family	Zachary Brownstein	healing	Andrew & Lorraine Higgins
Jayne Hess & family	healing, comfort	Lisa DeNisco	James Higgins	healing, comfort	Andrew & Lorraine Higgins
Sammy Rogers	healing, comfort	Lisa DeNisco	Nora & Gillian Dirr	comfort, guidance	Andrew & Lorraine Higgins
Donna Black	healing, comfort	Lisa DeNisco	Maryanne Sevarino		Andrew & Lorraine Higgins
Ryan DeNisco	guidance	Lisa DeNisco	Gary Anallo		Andrew & Lorraine Higgins
Julia O'Hara	healing, guidance	The DeNisco family	Joseph Dirr	healing, comfort, guidance	Andrew & Lorraine Higgins
John Behler	healing, comfort	The DeNisco family	Patrick Knockwood	guidance, safety	Andrew & Lorraine Higgins
Francine Scott	healing, comfort	Carol Warner	Jeanette Dahl	healing	Martha Lebow
Messiah Warner	personal, healing	Francine Scott	Eddie Zeh	healing	Martha Lebow
Micah Warner	healing, strength	Francine Scott	Jake Lopata	healing, comfort	Marj and Mike Edwards
Norman Warner, Jr.	safety	Francine Scott	Joan Karalis	healing, comfort	Grace Church family
Charles Warner & family	healing, strength	Francine Scott	Nicole Rumsey	comfort	James Rumsey
Denzel Warner	strength, guidance, safety	Francine Scott	Lisa Oboyski	healing, comfort	Lisa DeNisco
The Mather-Cathy family	healing	Pam Mather-Cathy	Nick Gisondi	healing	Patricia Lewis
Lauren Ponzoni	healing, comfort	Nancy Karp	Tom Quinn	healing	Patricia Lewis
Joe Baurenfeino	healing, comfort	Christy Silvels	Artie Colatrella	healing	Patricia Lewis
Jill	healing, comfort, release from pain	Christy Silvels	Kayden Moore	healing	Tim Moore, Mary Beth McGuire
Denise Fallo	healing, comfort, guidance	Christy and Magen	Amy, Ndan, Dylan	healing, guidance, employment, release from pain	
Magen Phillips	healing, comfort	Mom (Christy)	Susan Heintz	healing, comfort	Eileen Callahan
Patricia Phillips	rest in peace	Christy and Magen	Martin Romano	healing, comfort	Eileen Callahan
Kelley Phillips	healing	Christy and Magen	Beth Finger	jobs	Barbara Pinkall
Jake Phillips	healing, comfort	Christy and Magen	Sheree VanDeBogart	healing, comfort	Gordon VanDeBogart
Madison Phillips	healing, comfort	Christy and Magen	Meghan Littlejohn	healing, comfort	Peg Claster
Krystina Kun	healing, comfort	Christy Silvels	Ephraim Goldthorp	healing, comfort	Peg Claster
Bill Gray	comfort, peace	Penny Ames	Matthew Rales	healing, comfort	Peg Claster
Jennifer Bellotto	creativity, love, peace	Penny Ames	Kathy, Sheryl, Jammy	healing, comfort, strength	Nancy Karp

Thoughts about VBS...

Each July during Vacation Bible School, something special evolves between the children, counselors and volunteers here at Grace Church, which truly exemplifies God's love for all of us. This is evident in many ways.

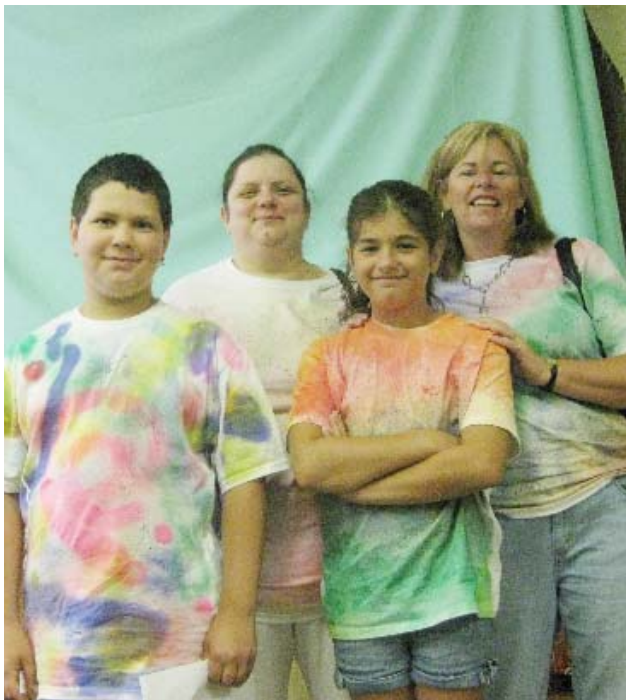
First, Miss Christine determinedly keeps the doors open to all children, not just the children of our own parish. Although all children are in need of God's love, some children come to VBS needing special care, love, and patience. Here at Grace, they receive that needed guidance, support and nurturing.

Secondly, year after year our volunteers return each day for one week after a long day at work or instead of spending a quiet, restful evening to themselves simply because they want to. The week of VBS has become something to look forward to each summer. People even plan their vacation schedules around it!

Lastly, special bonds form between children and adults. These bonds form over simple games, crafts, discussions, songs, and togetherness. Perhaps one of our greatest gifts is that all of our young counselors have a special talent for nurturing and leading our VBS children.

Thank you Miss Christine, all the volunteers and children. Vacation Bible School is one more very special thing about Grace Church.

– Meg Catizone



Grace Episcopal Church
Church School Registration
2010-2011

please completely fill out one form per child per year.
WE MUST have a new form EVERY year!

Students Name _____ Nickname _____

Birth date _____ Age _____ Grade Level _____

Please list any allergies or medical conditions we should be aware of

Parents names _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Other phone number _____

Email _____

Can we add you to a church school email list -to be notified of upcoming events & news? _____

Can we send the monthly parent newsletter to your email address? _____

In case of emergency contact name _____ number _____

Please indicate if you are interested in:

Baptism _____ Communion Classes _____ Confirmation _____ Helping in the classroom _____

behind the scenes help _____ Vacation Bible School 2011 _____

MEDIA CONSENT FORM FOR MINORS:

I, _____, being the parent/guardian of

Minor, hereby consent: that the photographs, audio/videotapes, electronic images and/or other works in which Minor appears or is depicted may be used by Grace Episcopal Church Middletown, NY for purposes of furthering the Children's ministry.

These may/ may not be used in: please indicate on each line may or may not.

_____ newspapers _____ internet _____ Church newsletters
and ads without limitation. I agree to release all mine and my Minor's rights to the aforementioned and allow it to become Grace Church's property so that they shall have the right to publish, reproduce, distribute and make other uses free of All claims and/or damages that I or Minor may incur.

Date: September 1st 2010- August 31st 2011

Signature of parent/guardian:

Stewardship: Time and Talents

When most of us hear the word stewardship our first thought is of money. And although that is a very important aspect, stewardship involves so much more. Today I am going to ask you to consider being good stewards of your time and talents.

We all are well aware of the financial burdens placed upon the church in order to run an active parish like Grace Church. Everyday expenses such as utility bills, maintenance of our buildings and grounds and financial support of our ministry to feed the hungry all need our continued financial support. However, the programs our church offers to our parish and the community at large cannot run solely on our financial support. They require our time and our talents to keep them vibrant, ongoing ministries.

In today's society we are all stretched for time. In my life sometimes I feel like time is my most precious commodity. I often joke that I need to retire because work interferes with my life. Since that isn't a realistic option for me at this point, I am constantly "scheduling" time in my life. I am a strong believer in giving God time in my life. I give Him time not only in worship and prayer but I try to make use of the talents He has given me by sharing them with others. By volunteering some of my time back to God I feel as if I thank Him for the gifts He has given me.

On October 3rd our church will be hosting our 3rd annual Ministry Fair. We will have one service at 9:00 that morning and the ministry fair will follow immediately afterward in the boardroom. All of the various ministries in our church will have tables set up with information about the ministry and ways you can help share your time and talents with them. This is a great opportunity for us all to not only see all that our church has to offer, but also a time for us to see how we can help. I encourage everyone to not only attend but also to consider how you can get involved. Perhaps you've always wanted to help with the craft fair but didn't think you had the talent for it. Stop in and see that you don't have to be "crafty" to help with the fair; you just have to be willing to donate some of your time, perhaps setting up or cleaning up. So whether you are a long-time member of Grace Church or someone who has only recently begun to attend, plan on coming to our ministry fair and prayerfully consider giving some of that precious commodity, time. There are MANY ways you can share your time and talents with God and help Grace Church to continue to be a vibrant active parish serving the needs of its parishioners and its community.

– Beth Maisonet

Please consider joining the Grace Church Choir!



We welcome the newly baptized:

Christopher Joseph Hardick

Nicholas Ryan Thomasulo

Church School News

By Mrs. Christine

I would like to send out a HUGE thank you to all who made VBS possible; you know who you are and I would be lost without you!!!!

The Church School is once again collecting school supplies. Please, when you do your shopping, consider donating some school supplies for those less fortunate. Pens, pencils, folders, notebooks, crayons, lunchboxes, backpacks... ANY school supplies greatly appreciated... NO donation too small or too big!!!!

Sunday, September 5 - Children's Sunday and
Blessing of the Backpacks & of the collected
school supplies

Sunday September 12 -
First day of Church School for 2010/2011 year

Hope you had a great Summer!



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Grace Episcopal Church
58 North Street
Middletown, NY 10940

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